

# THE GRANITE STATE POLL

## THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE SURVEY CENTER

February 17, 2009

### LYNCH MAINTAINS HIGH APPROVAL RATINGS, ECONOMY TOP ISSUE

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DURHAM, NH – Governor John Lynch continues to enjoy very high job approval ratings in New Hampshire. The state's economy continues to be seen as the most important issue facing New Hampshire.

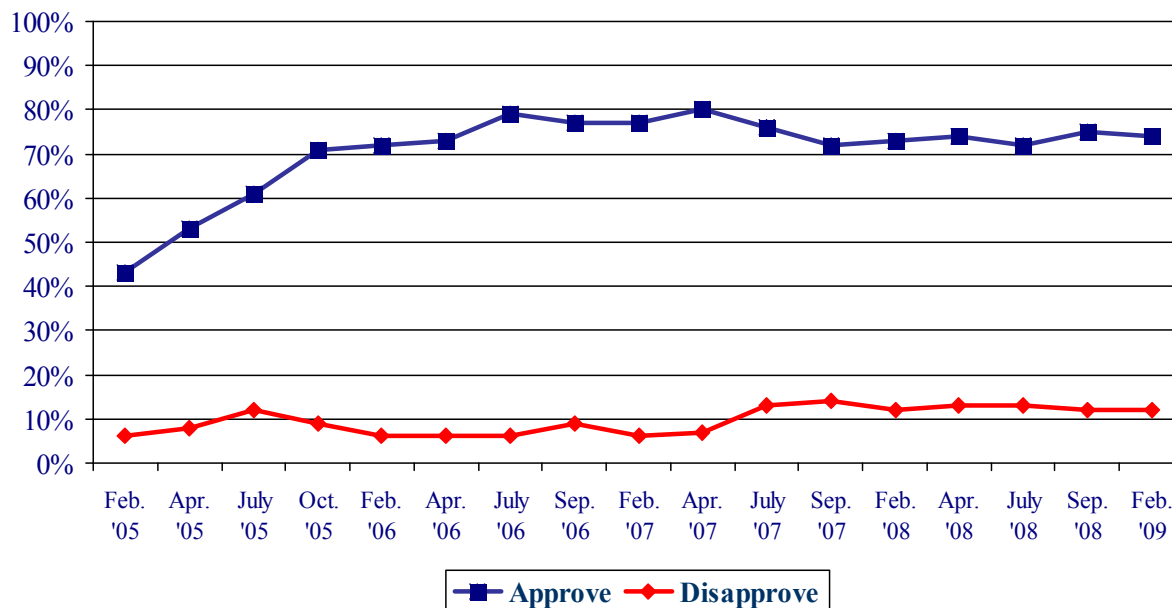
These findings are based on the latest **Granite State Poll**,\* conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. Six hundred nineteen (619) randomly selected New Hampshire adults were interviewed by telephone between February 5 and February 9, 2009. The margin of sampling error for the survey is +/-3.9 percent.

### Gubernatorial Approval

In the first Granite State Poll conducted since his reelection to a third term, Governor John Lynch has maintained the high approval levels he has received for the past three years. Currently, 74% of NH adults approve of how he is handling his job as governor, 12% disapprove, and 14% are neutral or don't know. Lynch has also maintained his broad-spectrum support, as he receives the approval of 66% of Republicans, 85% of Democrats, and 69% of political independents.

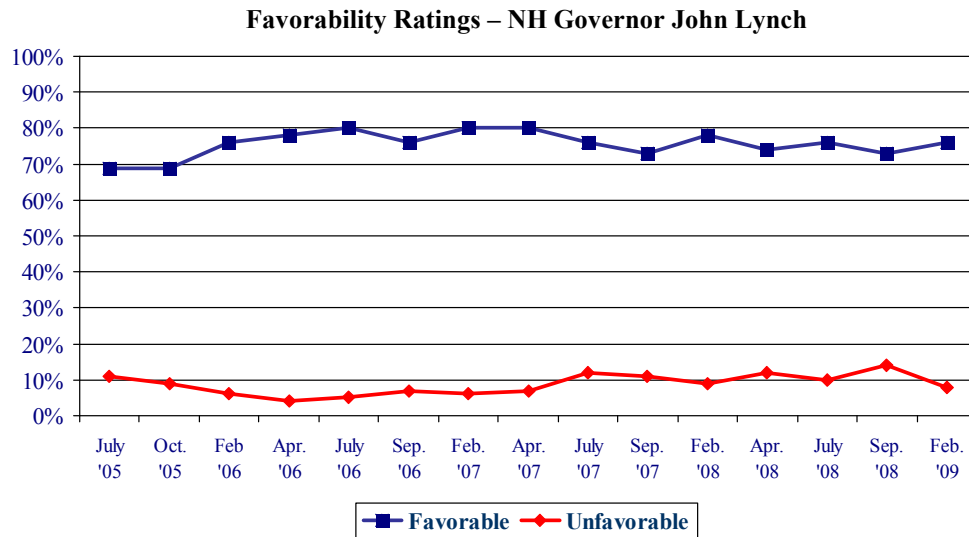
Lynch's approval ratings have not fallen below 70% since fall of 2005.

NH Gubernatorial Approval – John Lynch



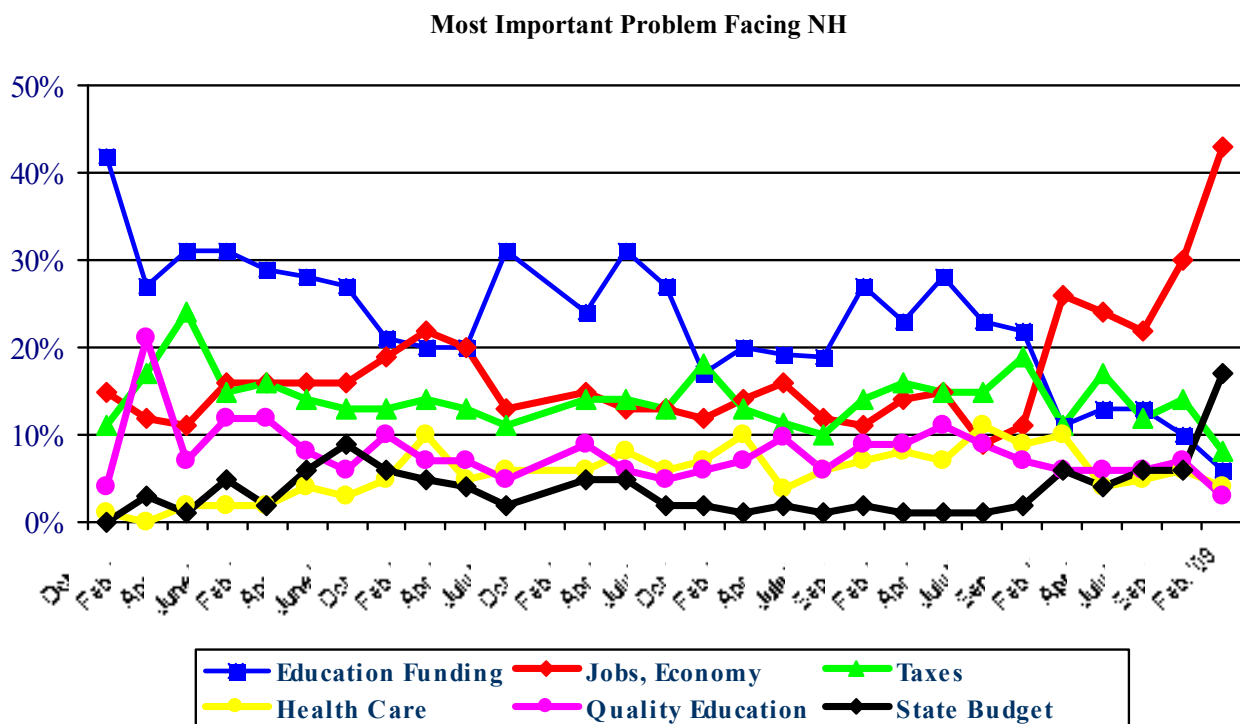
\* We ask that this copyrighted information be referred to as *the Granite State Poll*, conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center.

Lynch's personal favorability rating also remains high. In the latest Granite State Poll, 76% of New Hampshire adults say they have a favorable opinion of Lynch, only 8% have an unfavorable opinion, 10% are neutral, and 7% say they don't know enough about him to say. Since prior to his reelection, Lynch's net favorability rating, the percentage having a favorable opinion minus the percentage having an unfavorable opinion, has jumped nearly 10 percentage points to a very high +68 percent.



### Most Important Problem Facing New Hampshire

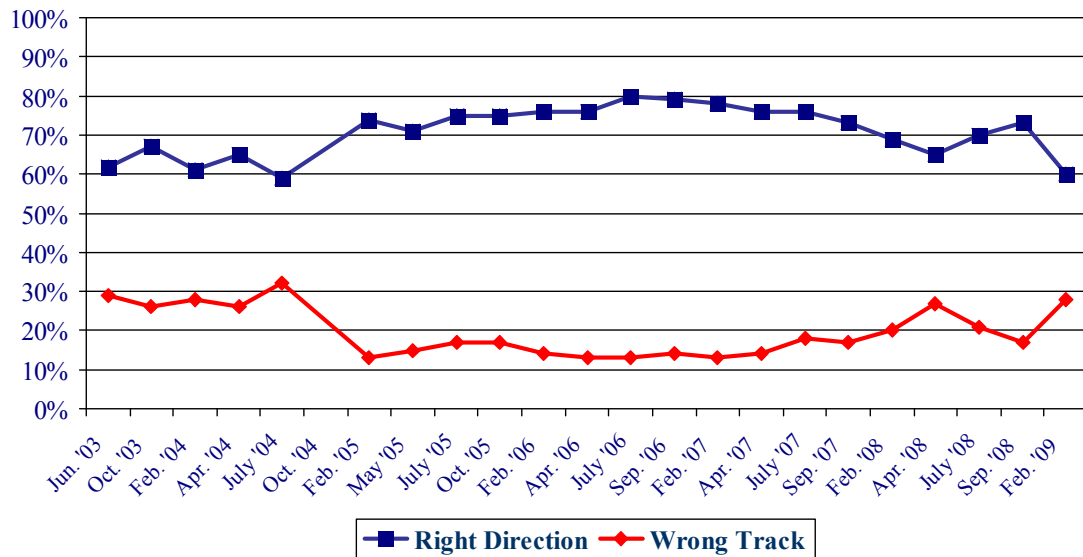
New Hampshire's focus, like the rest of the country, continues to be on the state of the economy. In the latest Granite State Poll, 43% of New Hampshire adults view the economy and jobs as the most important issue facing the state, followed by the looming state budget crises (17%), high taxes (8%), how to fund primary and secondary education (6%), health care issues (4%), and the quality of education (3%).



## Right Direction or Wrong Track?

While New Hampshire residents continue to be optimistic in regards to the direction the state is going in, the percentage of those believing NH is on the right track has fallen to levels not seen in five years. Currently, 60% of New Hampshire adults feel the state is going in the right direction, 28% think the state is seriously off on the wrong track, and 12% don't know.

NH Heading in Right Direction or On Wrong Track?



## Granite State Poll Methodology

These findings are based on the latest **Granite State Poll** conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. Six hundred nineteen (619) randomly selected New Hampshire adults were interviewed by telephone between February 5 and February 9, 2009. The margin of sampling error for the survey is +/-3.9 percent.

The data have been weighted to adjust for numbers of adults and telephone lines within households, respondent sex, and region of the state. In addition to potential sampling error, all surveys have other potential sources of non-sampling error including question order effects, question wording effects, and non-response.

### Gubernatorial Approval

“GENERALLY SPEAKING, do you approve or disapprove of the way Governor Lynch is handling his job as governor?”

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Neutral/DK</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(N=)</u>
<b>Feb. '09</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>(612)</b>
<b>Sep. '08</b>	75%	13%	12%	(539)
<b>July '08</b>	72%	15%	13%	(512)
<b>Apr. '08</b>	74%	13%	13%	(496)
<b>Feb. '08</b>	73%	14%	12%	(547)
<b>Sept. '07</b>	72%	14%	14%	(501)
<b>July '07</b>	76%	11%	13%	(501)
<b>Apr. '07</b>	80%	12%	7%	(514)
<b>Feb. '07</b>	77%	16%	6%	(531)
<b>Sept. '06</b>	77%	14%	9%	(504)
<b>July '06</b>	79%	15%	6%	(498)
<b>Apr. '06</b>	73%	21%	6%	(489)
<b>Feb. '06</b>	72%	22%	6%	(491)
<b>Oct. '05</b>	71%	20%	9%	(495)
<b>July '05</b>	61%	26%	12%	(490)
<b>Apr. '05</b>	53%	39%	8%	(480)
<b>Feb. '05</b>	43%	51%	6%	(524)

### Favorability Ratings – Governor John Lynch

"Next, I'd like to get your overall opinion of some people in the news. As I read each name, please say if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of this person - or if you have never heard of him or her. Governor (Hopkinton businessman) John Lynch."

	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>NET</u>	<u>(N=)</u>
<b>Feb. '09</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>+68%</b>	<b>(617)</b>
<b>Sep. '08</b>	73%	6%	14%	8%	+59%	(522)
<b>July '08</b>	76%	8%	10%	6%	+66%	(517)
<b>Apr. '08</b>	74%	11%	12%	4%	+62%	(499)
<b>Feb. '08</b>	78%	11%	9%	3%	+69%	(554)
<b>Sept. '07</b>	73%	10%	11%	6%	+62%	(506)
<b>July '07</b>	76%	8%	12%	5%	+64%	(505)
<b>Apr. '07</b>	80%	9%	7%	4%	+73%	(515)
<b>Feb. '07</b>	80%	9%	6%	5%	+74%	(536)
<b>Sept. '06</b>	76%	11%	7%	5%	+69%	(511)
<b>July '06</b>	80%	8%	5%	7%	+75%	(505)
<b>Apr. '06</b>	78%	10%	4%	8%	+74%	(503)
<b>Feb. '06</b>	76%	12%	6%	6%	+70%	(499)
<b>Oct. '05</b>	69%	13%	9%	8%	+60%	(508)
<b>July '05</b>	69%	9%	11%	11%	+58%	(500)
<b>Oct. '04</b>	34%	13%	12%	40%	+22%	(573)
<b>July '04</b>	17%	8%	6%	69%	+11%	(508)
<b>Feb. '04</b>	7%	9%	6%	77%	+1%	(509)

### Most Important Problem Facing New Hampshire

"Let's turn to the State of New Hampshire ... There are many problems facing the STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE today. In general, what do you think is the most IMPORTANT problem facing the STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE today?"

	<u>Jobs / Economy</u>	<u>Educ. Funding</u>	<u>Taxes</u>	<u>Health Care</u>	<u>Quality Educ.</u>	<u>Growth/ Sprawl</u>	<u>State Budget</u>	<u>Cost of Gas/Oil</u>	<u>Other/ DK</u>	<u>(N=)</u>
<b>Feb. '09</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>(607)</b>
<b>Sep. '08</b>	30%	10%	14%	6%	7%	*	6%	7%	20%	(531)
<b>July '08</b>	22%	13%	12%	5%	6%	1%	6%	14%	22%	(504)
<b>Apr. '08</b>	24%	13%	17%	4%	6%	0%	4%	7%	25%	(496)
<b>Feb. '08</b>	26%	11%	11%	10%	6%	1%	6%	1%	28%	(542)
<b>Sept. '07</b>	11%	22%	19%	9%	7%	1%	2%	1%	28%	(499)
<b>July '07</b>	9%	23%	15%	11%	9%	2%	1%	2%	29%	(488)
<b>Apr. '07</b>	15%	28%	15%	7%	11%	2%	1%	1%	20%	(501)
<b>Feb. '07</b>	14%	23%	16%	8%	9%	2%	1%	1%	26%	(527)
<b>Sept. '06</b>	11%	27%	14%	7%	9%	3%	2%	2%	26%	(499)
<b>July '06</b>	12%	19%	10%	6%	6%	3%	1%	5%	38%	(490)
<b>Apr. '06</b>	16%	19%	11%	4%	10%	3%	2%	5%	30%	(501)
<b>Feb. '06</b>	14%	20%	13%	10%	7%	3%	1%	3%	29%	(498)
<b>Oct. '05</b>	12%	17%	18%	7%	6%	5%	2%	3%	30%	(503)
<b>July '05</b>	13%	27%	13%	6%	5%	4%	2%	*	28%	(496)
<b>Apr. '05</b>	13%	31%	14%	8%	6%	3%	5%	3%	18%	(487)
<b>Feb. '05</b>	15%	24%	14%	6%	9%	2%	2%	*	28%	(541)
<b>July '04</b>	13%	31%	11%	6%	5%	4%	2%	0%	28%	(504)
<b>Apr. '04</b>	20%	20%	13%	5%	7%	3%	4%	0%	29%	(536)
<b>Feb. '04</b>	22%	20%	14%	10%	7%	2%	5%	0%	21%	(502)
<b>Oct. '03</b>	19%	21%	13%	5%	10%	3%	6%	0%	23%	(490)
<b>June '03</b>	16%	27%	13%	3%	6%	1%	9%	0%	25%	(513)
<b>Apr. '03</b>	16%	28%	14%	4%	8%	2%	6%	0%	22%	(497)
<b>Feb. '03</b>	16%	29%	16%	2%	12%	2%	2%	0%	21%	(644)
<b>June '02</b>	16%	31%	15%	2%	12%	1%	5%	0%	18%	(424)
<b>Apr. '02</b>	11%	31%	24%	2%	7%	2%	1%	0%	22%	(684)
<b>Feb. '02</b>	12%	27%	17%	0%	21%	1%	3%	0%	19%	(312)
<b>Oct. '01</b>	15%	42%	11%	1%	45	2%	*	0%	25%	(519)

\* Less than 1%

# **NH - Right Direction or Wrong Track**

“Do you think things in New Hampshire are generally going in the right direction or are they seriously off on the wrong track?”

	<b><u>Right Direction</u></b>	<b><u>Wrong Track</u></b>	<b><u>Don't Know</u></b>	<b><u>(N=)</u></b>
<b>Feb. '09</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>(605)</b>
<b>Sept. '08</b>	73%	17%	10%	(535)
<b>July '08</b>	70%	21%	9%	(514)
<b>Apr. '08</b>	65%	27%	8%	(491)
<b>Feb. '08</b>	69%	20%	11%	(547)
<b>Sept. '07</b>	73%	17%	10%	(507)
<b>July '07</b>	76%	18%	6%	(500)
<b>Apr. '07</b>	76%	14%	9%	(506)
<b>Feb. '07</b>	78%	13%	8%	(524)
<b>Sept. '06</b>	79%	14%	7%	(509)
<b>July '06</b>	80%	13%	8%	(497)
<b>Apr. '06</b>	76%	13%	11%	(501)
<b>Feb. '06</b>	76%	14%	10%	(495)
<b>Oct. '05</b>	75%	17%	9%	(502)
<b>July '05</b>	75%	17%	8%	(494)
<b>May '05</b>	71%	15%	13%	(488)
<b>Feb. '05</b>	74%	13%	13%	(535)
<b>July '04</b>	59%	32%	9%	(503)
<b>Apr. '04</b>	65%	26%	9%	(530)
<b>Feb. '04</b>	61%	28%	11%	(500)
<b>Oct. '03</b>	67%	26%	7%	(485)
<b>Jun. '03</b>	62%	29%	9%	(510)

# Gubernatorial Approval

STATEWIDE	<u>Approve</u> 74%	<u>Neutral</u> 14%	<u>Disapprove</u> 12%	<u>(N)</u> 612
Registered Democrat	85%	11%	4%	182
Registered Undeclared	72%	13%	15%	223
Registered Republican	72%	12%	17%	166
Democrat	85%	10%	4%	260
Independent	69%	18%	13%	121
Republican	66%	14%	19%	221
Liberal	82%	12%	6%	116
Moderate	78%	12%	10%	284
Conservative	67%	15%	18%	170
Union household	81%	10%	9%	90
Non-union	74%	14%	12%	514
10 yrs or less in NH	68%	20%	12%	100
11 to 20 years	71%	16%	13%	109
More than 20 years	77%	12%	11%	398
18 to 34	58%	32%	9%	69
35 to 49	74%	12%	15%	171
50 to 64	78%	12%	11%	217
65 and over	78%	11%	11%	149
Male	72%	14%	14%	302
Female	77%	14%	10%	310
High school or less	67%	25%	9%	135
Some college	73%	14%	13%	140
College graduate	78%	10%	12%	210
Post-graduate	80%	7%	13%	125
Less than \$30K	68%	25%	7%	59
\$30K to \$60K	75%	13%	11%	95
\$60K to \$75K	75%	17%	9%	58
\$75K to \$100K	79%	10%	11%	63
\$100K or more	80%	10%	10%	140
Married	78%	8%	13%	419
Divorced/separated	69%	22%	9%	117
Never married	62%	30%	8%	72
Protestant	76%	12%	12%	217
Catholic	74%	11%	16%	202
Other	76%	18%	6%	168
Attend services 1 or more/week	73%	9%	18%	143
1-2 times a month	79%	12%	9%	86
Less often	70%	15%	15%	191
Never	79%	17%	4%	177
North Country	70%	9%	21%	56
Central / Lakes	76%	14%	10%	106
Connecticut Valley	77%	14%	10%	84
Mass Border	75%	15%	10%	165
Seacoast	82%	13%	5%	108
Manchester Area	63%	17%	21%	92
First Cong. Dist	74%	14%	12%	309
Second Cong. Dist	75%	13%	12%	303
1st E.C. District	74%	10%	16%	124
2nd E.C. District	81%	14%	5%	134
3rd E.C. District	78%	12%	11%	123
4th E.C. District	69%	19%	12%	103
5th E.C. District	70%	15%	15%	128

# Are Things in NH on Right/Wrong Track

	<b><u>Right</u></b> <b><u>Direction</u></b> <b>60%</b>	<b><u>Wrong</u></b> <b><u>Track</u></b> <b>28%</b>	<b><u>Don't</u></b> <b><u>Know</u></b> <b>12%</b>	<b><u>(N)</u></b> <b>605</b>
<b>STATEWIDE</b>				
Registered Democrat	66%	23%	12%	180
Registered Undeclared	60%	28%	12%	223
Registered Republican	58%	31%	11%	163
Democrat	67%	24%	10%	257
Independent	57%	30%	14%	119
Republican	56%	31%	13%	219
Liberal	64%	22%	15%	116
Moderate	65%	25%	10%	282
Conservative	53%	35%	12%	166
Union household	60%	30%	10%	88
Non-union	61%	28%	12%	511
10 yrs or less in NH	53%	30%	17%	99
11 to 20 years	59%	31%	11%	104
More than 20 years	63%	27%	10%	396
18 to 34	54%	29%	17%	69
35 to 49	57%	37%	6%	171
50 to 64	60%	24%	16%	214
65 and over	66%	24%	10%	149
Male	56%	33%	11%	297
Female	64%	23%	12%	308
High school or less	55%	32%	14%	136
Some college	60%	26%	14%	139
College graduate	61%	28%	11%	209
Post-graduate	64%	29%	7%	119
Less than \$30K	52%	31%	18%	60
\$30K to \$60K	66%	24%	9%	94
\$60K to \$75K	58%	34%	8%	57
\$75K to \$100K	61%	31%	8%	63
\$100K or more	65%	23%	11%	138
Married	61%	30%	9%	412
Divorced/separated	60%	25%	15%	117
Never married	56%	25%	18%	73
Protestant	67%	24%	9%	212
Catholic	58%	31%	11%	203
Other	53%	32%	16%	164
Attend services 1 or more/week	61%	31%	7%	141
1-2 times a month	66%	28%	6%	83
Less often	59%	29%	12%	187
Never	57%	25%	18%	179
North Country	59%	30%	11%	55
Central / Lakes	58%	33%	9%	103
Connecticut Valley	71%	18%	11%	84
Mass Border	56%	31%	12%	164
Seacoast	64%	23%	13%	108
Manchester Area	55%	32%	12%	91
First Cong. Dist	56%	31%	13%	304
Second Cong. Dist	64%	26%	10%	301
1st E.C. District	64%	27%	9%	122
2nd E.C. District	68%	22%	10%	132
3rd E.C. District	62%	27%	11%	123
4th E.C. District	54%	34%	12%	102
5th E.C. District	52%	33%	15%	126



# Most Important Problem Facing NH

	<u>Educ Funding</u> 6%	<u>Jobs, Economy</u> 43%	<u>Taxes</u> 8%	<u>State Budget</u> 17%	<u>Quality Educ.</u> 3%	<u>Other</u> 18%	<u>Don't Know</u> 5%	<u>(N=)</u> 607
<b>STATEWIDE</b>								
Registered Democrat	9%	41%	8%	17%	3%	17%	4%	182
Registered Undeclared	4%	45%	10%	15%	3%	18%	4%	219
Registered Republican	7%	35%	7%	24%	3%	20%	5%	163
Democrat	8%	42%	7%	15%	4%	20%	5%	260
Independent	3%	56%	9%	11%	3%	15%	3%	118
Republican	6%	36%	8%	23%	2%	18%	6%	218
Liberal	8%	41%	8%	12%	4%	23%	3%	117
Moderate	7%	42%	8%	19%	3%	16%	5%	280
Conservative	3%	44%	9%	20%	3%	17%	5%	167
Union household	13%	48%	4%	18%	3%	14%	0%	89
Non-union	5%	42%	9%	17%	3%	19%	6%	510
10 yrs or less in NH	10%	46%	3%	11%	1%	21%	8%	99
11 to 20 years	10%	31%	14%	14%	6%	21%	4%	110
More than 20 years	4%	45%	8%	20%	3%	16%	4%	394
18 to 34	2%	51%	3%	7%	4%	21%	12%	69
35 to 49	10%	40%	8%	16%	3%	19%	4%	170
50 to 64	6%	44%	9%	19%	3%	16%	3%	215
65 and over	4%	40%	9%	19%	3%	18%	8%	149
Male	7%	40%	8%	24%	2%	16%	3%	298
Female	5%	45%	8%	10%	4%	20%	7%	309
High school or less	2%	51%	6%	11%	3%	19%	8%	137
Some college	2%	42%	9%	20%	3%	24%	2%	138
College graduate	8%	41%	10%	18%	4%	14%	5%	207
Post-graduate	12%	39%	6%	19%	1%	18%	5%	123
Less than \$30K	1%	36%	10%	20%	0%	24%	9%	60
\$30K to \$60K	4%	49%	8%	11%	3%	20%	4%	94
\$60K to \$75K	5%	43%	3%	26%	1%	16%	5%	58
\$75K to \$100K	6%	45%	8%	13%	5%	17%	6%	63
\$100K or more	9%	41%	10%	21%	2%	15%	0%	141
Married	8%	41%	9%	18%	3%	17%	5%	415
Divorced/separated	1%	52%	9%	12%	2%	20%	4%	116
Never married	4%	40%	3%	19%	5%	19%	9%	72
Protestant	8%	40%	7%	18%	3%	21%	3%	213
Catholic	7%	42%	11%	15%	3%	13%	8%	203
Other	2%	47%	6%	19%	2%	19%	4%	165
Attend services 1 or more/week	4%	44%	5%	16%	4%	19%	6%	143
1-2 times a month	16%	37%	11%	17%	1%	14%	4%	85
Less often	3%	41%	10%	19%	3%	17%	6%	185
Never	6%	47%	6%	15%	3%	19%	4%	180
North Country	5%	38%	5%	21%	0%	21%	9%	58
Central / Lakes	3%	50%	5%	19%	3%	19%	1%	105
Connecticut Valley	9%	39%	11%	15%	1%	20%	6%	85
Mass Border	11%	44%	10%	11%	3%	15%	6%	160
Seacoast	5%	42%	7%	18%	5%	19%	3%	108
Manchester Area	0%	40%	9%	23%	4%	17%	7%	92
First Cong. Dist	4%	44%	5%	17%	4%	20%	6%	306
Second Cong. Dist	8%	42%	11%	17%	2%	16%	4%	301
1st E.C. District	4%	42%	8%	21%	0%	18%	7%	125
2nd E.C. District	6%	47%	7%	16%	2%	19%	4%	133
3rd E.C. District	6%	35%	8%	17%	9%	21%	4%	123
4th E.C. District	9%	44%	4%	17%	0%	17%	9%	103
5th E.C. District	6%	46%	12%	14%	3%	16%	3%	122

**Favorability Rating - John Lynch**

<b>STATEWIDE</b>	<b><u>Favorable</u></b> <b><u>76%</u></b>	<b><u>Neutral</u></b> <b><u>10%</u></b>	<b><u>Unfavorable</u></b> <b><u>8%</u></b>	<b><u>Don't Know</u></b> <b><u>7%</u></b>	<b><u>(N)</u></b> <b><u>617</u></b>
Registered Democrat	88%	6%	3%	3%	183
Registered Undeclared	74%	11%	8%	7%	226
Registered Republican	71%	13%	11%	5%	166
Democrat	87%	6%	3%	4%	263
Independent	73%	9%	9%	10%	123
Republican	67%	14%	12%	7%	221
Liberal	85%	5%	3%	6%	118
Moderate	80%	9%	7%	5%	286
Conservative	66%	16%	12%	6%	170
Union household	78%	8%	8%	7%	90
Non-union	76%	10%	7%	7%	519
10 yrs or less in NH	68%	13%	8%	11%	101
11 to 20 years	74%	8%	9%	9%	109
More than 20 years	79%	9%	7%	5%	402
18 to 34	61%	8%	8%	23%	71
35 to 49	74%	9%	9%	8%	174
50 to 64	79%	10%	8%	3%	217
65 and over	82%	10%	5%	3%	150
Male	74%	12%	9%	5%	306
Female	79%	7%	6%	8%	311
High school or less	71%	10%	6%	13%	140
Some college	72%	9%	10%	9%	140
College graduate	80%	10%	7%	3%	211
Post-graduate	82%	7%	8%	3%	124
Less than \$30K	72%	10%	6%	11%	60
\$30K to \$60K	76%	8%	9%	8%	95
\$60K to \$75K	80%	9%	3%	8%	57
\$75K to \$100K	74%	11%	9%	6%	63
\$100K or more	81%	5%	8%	6%	141
Married	77%	9%	9%	5%	421
Divorced/separated	77%	11%	5%	8%	117
Never married	71%	8%	4%	17%	75
Protestant	77%	11%	7%	5%	218
Catholic	73%	8%	11%	8%	205
Other	80%	9%	4%	7%	169
Attend services 1 or more/week	78%	6%	12%	4%	143
1-2 times a month	78%	10%	5%	7%	86
Less often	71%	13%	8%	8%	194
Never	81%	8%	3%	8%	179
North Country	74%	13%	10%	2%	56
Central / Lakes	76%	11%	7%	7%	106
Connecticut Valley	79%	8%	6%	6%	85
Mass Border	73%	8%	9%	10%	168
Seacoast	86%	4%	4%	6%	108
Manchester Area	70%	16%	10%	5%	94
First Cong. Dist	75%	10%	8%	7%	311
Second Cong. Dist	78%	9%	7%	6%	307
1st E.C. District	75%	12%	8%	5%	124
2nd E.C. District	84%	6%	4%	6%	135
3rd E.C. District	80%	7%	7%	6%	125
4th E.C. District	71%	11%	8%	10%	105
5th E.C. District	70%	12%	12%	7%	128